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LB 150

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: ...to run the facility.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And is it conceivable that also some of the money that they would be earning might go to cover some of these kinds of...

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: The ones that are actually at work release,...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...expenses?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: ...yes. The ones that are working on the work detail or working in the facility running it, no, and that would be another thing that would be used to send them out. If you're not doing real well and you're not quite ready to go out and get the job, then we're going to keep you inside the facility. You're going to work in the kitchen or clean the facility or we're going to send you out on work detail until you're ready. But we've got to have a number in there that says work release or they will not send them.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay, thank you, Senator Pedersen. With that, that is a little bit off the discussion of the numbers here, but I would encourage you not to support the 400 number and, Senator Chambers, I don't even know if you intend leaving that amendment up there or not, but I would like to talk about a little bit lower figure of 300 perhaps.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time, Senator. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I have listened for hours on this discussion on prison and several times people have made reference to a bill that we passed a couple of years ago, LB 529, and the change that that made in the prison population, and I handed out a sheet to everyone on just a couple of the cases, a sample of the cases, where judges have deemed it necessary to increase the sentence of the individuals that they were sentencing and the reasons why they did so. So if we're looking at the increase in the prison population and saying that it's because of our policy